



# CHATHAM

## Barnstable County



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## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

Chatham, one of the older townships of Cape Cod, was settled in 1656 by a handful of Pilgrims, whose surnames still dominate the town's census list. The town was incorporated in 1712. Originally a farming community, its inhabitants found deep sea fishing more lucrative, and today small boat deep sea fishing is an important source of the town's revenue. Covering an area of approximately seventeen square miles, Chatham is a happy combination of past and present: old fashioned and picturesque, yet affording the best in modern facilities.

The town operates under the town meeting form of government. The executive officers are a board of five part-time selectmen and an executive secretary. Once a year, the citizens meet to discuss articles in a town warrant and pass or reject them. Most funds spent by the town are voted at this meeting.

The citizens of Chatham enjoy the special benefits of forward-looking zoning and current planning, and of both public and private conservation efforts.

Warm summer days with cool summer nights, beautiful warm indian summers, and relatively mild winters make Chatham a comfortable place in which to live year-round or vacation.

(Narrative supplied by community)





# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Southeastern Massachusetts, at the "elbow" of Cape Cod. Bordered by Pleasant Bay and Orleans on the north, the Atlantic Ocean on the east, Nantucket Sound on the south, and Harwich on the west. Chatham is 17 miles east of Hyannis, 89 miles southeast of Boston, and 223 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 24.33 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 16.43 sq. miles

**Population:** 6,579

**Density:** 400 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Chatham WSMO Station)

Normal temperature in January.....30.4°F

Normal temperature in July.....67.3°F

Normal annual precipitation.....45.1"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Chatham, Monomoy Point, Harwich

## Regional Planning Agency

Cape Cod Commission

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Barnstable-Yarmouth





# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 945-2100

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen  
Executive Secretary  
Open Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1712

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	5,166		
Democrats	855	16.6	%
Republicans	1,693	32.8	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	2,618	50.7	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)





# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Chatham town, Barnstable County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	6,625	100.0	<b>HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE</b>		
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>			Total population.....	6,625	100.0
Male.....	3,126	47.2	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	66	1.0
Female.....	3,499	52.8	Mexican.....	20	0.3
Under 5 years.....	193	2.9	Puerto Rican.....	26	0.4
5 to 9 years.....	220	3.3	Cuban.....	9	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	266	4.0	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	11	0.2
15 to 19 years.....	284	4.3	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	6,559	99.0
20 to 24 years.....	207	3.1	White alone.....	6,313	95.3
25 to 34 years.....	491	7.4	<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>		
35 to 44 years.....	820	12.4	Total population.....	6,625	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	933	14.1	In households.....	6,307	95.2
55 to 59 years.....	459	6.9	Householder.....	3,160	47.7
60 to 64 years.....	479	7.2	Spouse.....	1,617	24.4
65 to 74 years.....	1,062	16.0	Child.....	1,115	16.8
75 to 84 years.....	851	12.8	Own child under 18 years.....	806	12.2
85 years and over.....	360	5.4	Other relatives.....	141	2.1
Median age (years).....	53.9	(X)	Under 18 years.....	30	0.5
18 years and over.....	5,746	86.7	Nonrelatives.....	274	4.1
Male.....	2,646	39.9	Unmarried partner.....	94	1.4
Female.....	3,100	46.8	In group quarters.....	318	4.8
21 years and over.....	5,615	84.8	Institutionalized population.....	173	2.6
62 years and over.....	2,567	38.7	Noninstitutionalized population.....	146	2.2
65 years and over.....	2,273	34.3	<b>HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE</b>		
Male.....	972	14.7	Total households.....	3,160	100.0
Female.....	1,301	19.6	Family households (families).....	1,887	59.7
<b>RACE</b>			With own children under 18 years.....	484	15.3
One race.....	6,571	99.2	Married-couple family.....	1,617	51.2
White.....	6,362	96.0	With own children under 18 years.....	354	11.2
Black or African American.....	117	1.8	Female householder, no husband present.....	190	6.0
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	12	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	92	2.9
Asian.....	18	0.3	Nonfamily households.....	1,273	40.3
Asian Indian.....	1	-	Householder living alone.....	1,097	34.7
Chinese.....	4	0.1	Householder 65 years and over.....	595	18.8
Filipino.....	3	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	514	16.3
Japanese.....	2	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	1,491	47.2
Korean.....	4	0.1	Average household size.....	2.00	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	2.52	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	4	0.1	<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	1	-	Total housing units.....	6,743	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	3,160	46.9
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	1	-	Vacant housing units.....	3,583	53.1
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	-	-	occasional use.....	3,147	46.7
Some other race.....	61	0.9	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	2.1	(X)
Two or more races.....	54	0.8	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	15.7	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			<b>HOUSING TENURE</b>		
<i>or more other races:<sup>3</sup></i>			Occupied housing units.....	3,160	100.0
White.....	6,403	96.6	Owner-occupied housing units.....	2,528	80.0
Black or African American.....	130	2.0	Renter-occupied housing units.....	632	20.0
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	32	0.5	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.03	(X)
Asian.....	34	0.5	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.86	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	2	-			
Some other race.....	80	1.2			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.





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# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 85

Conventional Federal: 0

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 8

Federal (Section 8): 0





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# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Chatham is situated on Cape Cod, a 65-mile long sandy peninsula comprising Barnstable County. The Cape has excellent highway, rail, bus and air connections to other parts of New England. Air, bus, and passenger rail service expand during the summer months to accommodate the large numbers of tourists.

### Major Highways

Principal highways serving the town are State Routes 28 and 137.

### Rail

There is no freight rail service, but the network of intermodal facilities serving eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island is easily accessible.

### Bus

Chatham is a member of the Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority (CCRTA), which operates a b-bus demand response service.

### Other

The Chatham Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located 2 mi NW of town, has a 3,001'x 100' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision. A 2,100' maintenance facility for seaplanes specializes in seaplane conversions. Scheduled airline flights are available at the Hyannis Municipal Airport in the neighboring town of Barnstable.





# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Chatham Historical Society  
345 Stage Harbor Road  
(508) 945-2493

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)





# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

None

### Long Term Care

Liberty Commons Nursing Home

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

None

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.